

EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 08 JUNE 1991.

[REDACTED] YUGOSLAVIA: TRYING TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS ALIVE [REDACTED]

REPUBLIC AND FEDERAL LEADERS ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE PEACE BY CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS BUT APPEAR NO CLOSER TO AN AGREEMENT TO PRESERVE NATIONAL UNITY AS SLOVENIA'S SECESSION APPROACHES. [REDACTED]

REPUBLIC PRESIDENTS THIS WEEK AGREED TO CONTINUE TALKS ON YUGOSLAVIA'S FUTURE BASED ON A PROPOSAL COMBINING ELEMENTS OF A FEDERATION AND CONFEDERATION; NONE, HOWEVER, HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS. SLOVENE AND CROATIAN LEADERS HAVE SAID THE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM, BUT SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC TOLD THE SERBIAN LEGISLATURE THIS WEEK THAT HE WOULD NOT BEND ON THE REPUBLIC'S KEY DEMANDS. THE PRESIDENTS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE LEADERS OF SERBIA, CROATIA, AND BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA WILL HOLD SEPARATE TALKS ON THE ETHNIC CONFLICT BETWEEN SERBS AND CROATS. CROATIAN PRESIDENT TUDJMAN IS CONSIDERING SUSPENDING HIS 15 JUNE DEADLINE FOR AN AGREEMENT ON A NEW CONFEDERATION IF THESE TALKS GO WELL [REDACTED]

SLOVENE LEADERS HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT PRIME MINISTER MARKOVIC AND DEFENSE SECRETARY KADIJEVIC ACCEPTED IN A MEETING WEDNESDAY SLOVENIA'S RIGHT TO SECEDE AND THAT THE REPUBLIC STILL PLANS TO DO SO ON 26 JUNE. THEY ALSO HAVE SAID NEGOTIATIONS WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES OVER DETAILS SUCH AS TRANSITIONAL CONTROL OF BORDERS AN ALLOCATING DEBTS AND ASSETS WILL BEGIN SOON. [REDACTED]

THE ARMY HAS TAKEN NO STEPS TO MEET THE 9 JUNE DEADLINE SET BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES FOR DISARMING "ILLEGAL" GROUPS, PRIMARILY ONES IN CROATIA. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF VULETIC SAID RECENTLY THAT THE ARMY IS RELUCTANT TO ACT BECAUSE SUCH GROUPS ARE HEAVILY ARMED, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MILOSEVIC, WHOSE FLEXIBILITY REMAINS KEY TO A SETTLEMENT, PROBABLY BELIEVES THAT EMPLOYING LESS CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS AT THIS TIME WILL DENY HIS FOES AN ISSUE FOR RALLYING WESTERN SUPPORT. HE ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT A NEW CONFEDERAL ORDER, HOWEVER, AND PRESS HIS DEMANDS FOR EXPANDING SERBIA'S TERRITORY. THE SEPARATE TRILATERAL TALKS ON ETHNIC CONFLICT COULD BECOME THE FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS OVER REPUBLIC BORDER CHANGES IF HOPE FOR A SETTLEMENT FADES. [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

THE SLOVENES ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL SECEDE REGARDLESS OF WHAT OTHER REPUBLICS DO BUT WOULD PREFER TO AVOID A POTENTIALLY COSTLY CONFLICT WITH BELGRADE. MARKOVIC MAY HAVE DECIDED TO NEGOTIATE BECAUSE THE MILITARY, HIS ONLY POSSIBLE MEANS OF STOPPING SECESSION, STILL APPEARS RELUCTANT TO MOVE AGAINST WELL-ARMED DOMESTIC GROUPS. [REDACTED]